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3 monitoring a request signal from a first device for data on a second device in the network,
4 the request signal including a user identification parameter;
5 determining whether the access to the data requires a credit value;
6 determining whether a user identified by the user identification parameter is permitted
7 access to the data;
8 detecting a pre-set credit parameter in the request signal; and
9 comparing the pre-set credit parameter with a pre-determined value to determine
10 permission to access the data.

1 30. A method of controlling access of claim 29, further comprising providing access
2 to the data in response to the user having permission to access the data and the pre-set credit
3 parameter being greater than or equal to a predetermined value.

1 31. A method of controlling access of claim 29, further comprising preventing access
2 to the second device in response to the pre-set credit parameter being less than or equal to a
3 predetermined value.

1 32. The method of claim 29, further comprising re-directing the data signal to a third
2 device in response to the pre-set credit parameter being less than a predetermined value, the third
3 device allowing for a re-setting of the pre-set credit parameter to a new pre-set credit value
4 comprising a value greater than or equal to the predetermined value.

1 33. The method of claim 29, wherein the predetermined value is one from a group
2 comprising a positive monetary value, a positive time value, a bandwidth value, a quality of
3 service value, and a content rating.

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1 34. The method of claim 33, further comprising allowing access to one from a group
2 comprised of voice data, video data, and a real-time application in response to at least one of the
3 bandwidth value or quality of service value being greater than or equal to a threshold value.

1 35. The method of claim 29, further comprising providing access to a second data that
2 does not require a credit value in response to one of the pre-set credit value being less than or
3 equal to the pre-determined value or the user not having permission to access the data
4 corresponding to the request signal.

1 36. A network-based billing method for providing access to resources on a network,
2 the method comprising:

3 monitoring a data signal from a device on a network, the data signal including a request
4 for a resource, the resource including a value parameter;

5 identifying a cost for accessing the resource;

6 associating a user identification with the data signal;

7 identifying a credit balance for the user identification; and

8 comparing the credit balance with the cost to determine access to the resource; and

1 37. The network-based billing method of claim 36, further comprising allowing
2 access to the resource in response to the credit balance being less than or equal to the cost
3 preventing access to the resource.

1 38. The network-based billing method of claim 36, further comprising allowing
2 access to the resource in response to the credit balance being greater than or equal to the cost
3 preventing access to the resource.

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1 39. The method of claim 36, further comprising re-directing the data signal to a
2 second resource in response to the credit balance being less than the cost, the second resource
3 configured to allow for increasing the credit balance.

1 40. The method of claim 36, further comprising providing access to a second resource
2 having no cost in response to the credit balance being less than the cost.

1 41. The method of claim 36, wherein the cost comprises one from a group comprising
2 a monetary value, a quality of service value, a bandwidth value, a time value, and a content rating
3 value.

1 42. The method of claim 36, further comprising passing the data signal to a second
2 device having the resource.